



STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD

STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2021

- Our current maintenance staff could get this property up and running very quickly, compared to 3-5 years at an alternative site. This is an urgent need for the school division.
- The lot the school division is requesting is zoned for trucking and warehousing which is how the school division would use the space.
- The school division tries to be good partners with the City's various departments. This proposal would allow for: secure parking for parks and recreation to continue to store equipment/vehicles they are currently keeping at this space; space for the police department to securely store their mobile command center; a carwash facility for schools and city departments; and, this plan returns the space we are occupying at public works to them for the new water tower that is planned.
- This space would vastly improve the working conditions for our employees in these departments.
- The school board is preparing to make a monetary offer to purchase the property.

Ronald Ramsey inquired about the plans for Shelburne Middle School if the EDA accepts the proposal allowing the maintenance department to move out of the SMS building. Dr. Smith shared plans for expanded CTE and STEM offerings when the school is able to recapture the space currently occupied by the maintenance department and vehicles. This would provide a common meeting area for students, large spaces for teaching, indoor and outdoor learning spaces, etc.

Christine Poulson asked about the current cramped conditions for bus drivers and what impact a new facility might have on hiring and retaining drivers. Dr. Smith shared that, over recent years, the division had worked hard to resolve many issues that were affecting the ability to hire and retain bus drivers, such as driver pay increases and access to health insurance. A new facility with ample parking for employee cars and the division's fleet of cars and buses would definitely help with employee satisfaction. Parking buses and cars is very difficult on the current overcrowded site.

Ronald Ramsey noted that he had gotten questions from citizens about any possible negative impact of taking this property off the city's tax rolls. Dr. Smith explained that this property is not currently on the City's tax rolls and has not been for some time. He reiterated that the school division is preparing to make an offer for the property, noting that this property is ideal for the school division's needs and can quickly be put to use by our departments.

Natasha McCurdy inquired about where the transportation department has been located before the move to the public works 35 years ago and where the maintenance department had been located before moving to Shelburne 50 years ago. Mr. McCray shared that the transportation department operated from Greenville Avenue in the building now occupied by Napa Auto Parts and that the maintenance department operated out of a house near Bessie Weller Elementary School.

Amy Wratchford shared that the presentation shows that the proposal would provide for so much efficiency in those departments.

**B. Reports from School Board Members**

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

**Christine Poulson:**

- Participated in recent athletic boosters meeting. Reminded of the expanded opportunities to be spectators at outside spring athletic events.

**Robert Boyle:**

- Took part in the SVRP meeting earlier today and worked on FY22 budget.
- Appreciated the visit and time to talk with Senator Kaine as he toured SHS.

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**Ronald Ramsey:**

- Enjoyed the recent visit to the area by the Virginia Department of Aviation and their information provided about CTE careers.
- Served on committee for VAE grant application review.
- Enjoyed the Arbor Day Celebration at Dixon Center where Shenandoah Green planted tree #2000 as part of their goal of planting a tree in honor of every student in Staunton City Schools.

**Natasha McCurdy:**

- Noted that spring sports are underway and enjoying being a JV softball parent.
- Extended invitation to join a PTA group as those groups are working again and seeking members and officers for next year.

**Amy Wratchford:**

- Shared congratulations to the SVGS seniors who recently had their cord ceremony and SHS seniors who will be graduating soon.
- Expressed appreciation to the SHS students who participated in Valley Honors Band and the District Band, and for all the music educators who made band possible this year in the virtual program.
- Congratulated the One-Act Theater group for going to state competition again this year – the fourth year in a row.
- Appreciated Senator Kaine’s visit and especially that he took time to listen and to take note of our comments and concerns.

**IV. UPDATES AND INFORMATION**

**A. Finance Update by Brad Wegner, Budget Director**

➤ **Proposed FY22 Budget Amendment #5**

Mr. Wegner reviewed the details of the proposed FY21 budget amendment #5 totaling \$4,290,277, including appropriations from three pandemic funding sources.

**Public Hearing**

The Vice-chair opened the public hearing on the Proposed FY21 Budget Amendment #5 as reviewed and called upon any who were present at the meeting and wished to comment on the Proposed Budget Amendment, hearing from the following speakers:

- Christine Hawley, President of the SEA, thanked the Board for the opportunity to offer input on the use of the previous pandemic funding and hoped that the SEA would have the opportunity for continued input for pandemic related funds.

As there were no citizens calling in to comment, the Vice-chair declared the public hearing closed.

➤ **Finance Report**

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

**V. PUBLIC INPUT**

The Vice-chair opened the public input portion of the meeting. Having no citizens present at City Hall requesting to speak, and no citizens calling in to provide input, the public input period was closed.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Vice-chair invited Board members to review the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- Minutes of Board Development Session, Work Session, and Regular Meeting on April 12, 2021
  - Minutes of Work Session on April 26, 2021
  - Personnel Actions
  - Field Trip Requests: Staunton High School, Golf Team to State 2A Tournament, April 18-19, 2021
- On a motion by Christine Poulson, seconded by Natasha McCurdy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

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**VII. ACTION ITEMS**

The Vice-chair noted that Mr. Venn needed to leave and would therefore present **Item K** first.

**K. Policy Deviation**

Jonathan Venn, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the briefing and requested the Board authorize a temporary deviation from a portion of Policy GCN regarding performance improvement plans and salary increases.

**On a motion by Natasha McCurdy, seconded by Ronald Ramsey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the temporary deviation from Policy GCN as noted.**

**A. Policy Revisions**

Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent, reviewed the briefing outlining the policy revisions contained in the policy packet dated April 12 and reviewed with the Board during the work session on that date.

**On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Robert Boyle, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy manual revisions included in the April 12, 2021 policy packet.**

**B. FY21 Budget Amendment #5**

Brad Wegner, Budget Director, requested the School Board approve the budget amendment that was reviewed and on which a public hearing was held earlier in the meeting.

**On a motion by Natasha McCurdy, seconded by Christine Poulson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY21 Budget Amendment #5 as presented and contingent upon City Council's approval at its May 27 meeting.**

**C. Surplus Property**

Earl McCray, Director of Operations, reviewed the briefing outlining the items deemed to be no longer usable by the school division. He requested the Board authorize the surplus/disposal of these items.

**On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Christine Poulson, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the surplus/disposal of the listed items, as presented.**

**D. Title I, Part D, Subpart A Grant Application**

Dr. Jelisa Wolfe, Executive Director of Student Services, reviewed the grant application and noted how SCS uses these funds.

**On a motion by Christine Poulson, seconded by Natasha McCurdy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application for the 2021-2022 Title I, Part D (Neglected and Delinquent) Grant, as presented.**

**E. Title I, Part A Grant Application**

Stephanie Haskins, Executive Director of Instruction, reviewed the grant application and noted how SCS uses these funds.

**On a motion by Robert Boyle, seconded by Ronald Ramsey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application for the 2021-2022 Title I, Part A Grant, as presented.**

**F. Title II, Part A Grant Application**

Stephanie Haskins, Executive Director of Instruction, reviewed the grant application and noted how SCS uses these funds.

**On a motion by Natasha McCurdy, seconded by Ronald Ramsey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Title II, Part A application for the 2021-2022, as presented.**

**G. Title III Grant Application**

Stephanie Haskins, Executive Director of Instruction, reviewed the grant application and noted how SCS uses these funds.

**On a motion by Robert Boyle, seconded by Natasha McCurdy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application for the 2021-2022 Title III Grant, as presented.**

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**H. Title IV, Part A Grant Application**

Stephanie Haskins, Executive Director of Instruction, reviewed the grant application and noted how SCS uses these funds.

**On a motion by Christine Poulson, seconded by Robert Boyle, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application for the 2021-2022 Title IV, Part A Grant, as presented.**

**I. Virginia Regional Migrant Education Program Certification**

Stephanie Haskins, Executive Director of Instruction, reviewed the opportunity for the school division to participate in this regional program.

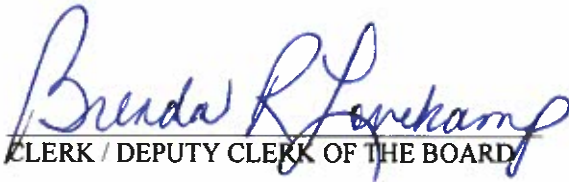
**On a motion by Natasha McCurdy, seconded by Ronald Ramsey, the Board voted unanimously to certify participation in the Virginia Regional Migrant Education Program for 2021-2022, as presented.**

**J. VSBA Workforce Readiness Award Application**

Cassie Farrish, Instructional Supervisor, reviewed the opportunity to apply for recognition of the partnership with Project Grows to develop a Youth Leaders in Agriculture Program.

**On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Robert Boyle, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the application for the VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award, as presented.**

Having completed the agenda as posted, the Vice-chair declared the regular meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

  
CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD