

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2021

The Staunton City School Board convened for the regular monthly business meeting in the Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers of Staunton City Hall, 116 W. Beverley Street, Staunton at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 9, 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. AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Smith noted that Staunton High School students had earned several state-level recognitions during the spring of the past school year. Nate Collins, Principal, introduced the following:

- Outdoor Track and Field, Coaches Mark Rosson and Teley Tate:
 - Ryan Bosserman – Triple Jump, Individual State Champion
 - Brendan Apgar, Maaliah Cabell, Ryan Bosserman, Micah Sanders – 4x100m Relay Team, State Champion
- Virginia Statewide National History Day Contest:
 - Kendall Brown and Valerie Noto - First Place, Senior Website Division

The Board congratulated the coaches and students on being the first state-level honorees for Staunton High School.

IV. REPORTS

A. Reports from Superintendent

Dr. Smith provided the following reports:

- Confirmed that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk had both taken the required oath of office.
- Introduced Cara Moore who is new to SCS this year but brings with her 24 years of education experience. As the Outreach Coordinator, Cara will be working with English language learners, talented and gifted, fine arts, web management, special permissions, and home schooling.
- Reminded that the first day of school is tomorrow as the division returns to 5-day, in person instruction. Masks will be required indoors and on buses, PK-12. He noted that, with the extra challenges placed on the transportation department this year, such as increased enrollment, school start and end time changes, etc., he anticipated the first couple of days would require some adjustments. He asked for patience and understanding from families as we work through any problems that might arise. He added that School Board members and administrative staff would be out at the schools to assist with morning arrivals.

B. Reports from School Board Members

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

Ronald Ramsey:

- Participated in recent virtual VSBA Conference on Education.
- Enjoyed the meet and greet session with new teachers.
- Helped with the Stuff the Bus campaign.
- Planning to help with morning arrivals tomorrow at Bessie Weller.
- Looking forward to a VSBA webinar later this month.
- Will participate in the first VCTC Board meeting of the school year in the next few weeks.

Natasha McCurdy:

- Enjoyed the new teacher orientation and the bus tour around the city.
- Worked with the various PTAs to prepare for the school year.

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Amy Wratford:

- Enjoyed the senior class open house at SHS. Such amazing administrators and staff -- so proud to be a part of this school division.

Christine Poulson:

- Also enjoyed the orientation at SHS.

Robert Boyle:

- Attended several of the open houses at the schools and enjoyed seeing everyone so excited to get started.
- Enjoyed the new teacher orientation.

Kenneth Venable:

- Enjoyed the new teacher orientation and the remarks by the speaker, Carlton Ashby.

IV. UPDATES AND INFORMATION

A. Finance Update by Brad Wegner, Budget Director

Brad Wegner, Budget Director, reviewed the FY21 year-to-date finance report through July 31, which includes the final payroll for the year.

B. Health & Mitigation Strategies Update by Dr. Jelisa Wolfe, Executive Director of Student Services

Dr. Wolfe reviewed the health and mitigation strategies in place for the return to in-person instruction 5 days per week. She reminded that staff and student safety are at the center of the conversations surrounding these decisions.

- Universal Masking – masks will be required for all persons inside the buildings and on buses for grades PK-12.
- Physical Distancing – will continue to practice physical distancing of at least 3 feet when practicable.
- Ventilation Updates – Bipolar Ionization in buildings and HEPA filters on buses will help to keep air moving and clean.
- Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette – will continue to work with staff and students on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- Healthy Spaces – our custodians do an excellent job of maintaining clean and healthy spaces in all facilities.
- Stay Home When Sick – will continue to issue reminders to stay home when sick and to be tested when potential COVID symptoms exist.
- Contact Tracing – will continue to contact trace for exposure, and offer isolation and quarantine should positive cases arise.
- Outdoor Learning Space – will continue to encourage use of outdoor spaces for meals and classroom activities as weather permits. Masks are generally not required outside unless participating in a crowded event.
- Masks Breaks – will continue to provide mask breaks as much as possible.
- Vaccination – will continue to encourage vaccination and will offer vaccination clinics in cooperation with Augusta Health. Clinics will be open to all. Parents must be present with anyone under age 18.
- Community Metrics – will continue to monitor community metrics from VDH.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

The Chair opened the public input portion of the meeting and heard from the following persons who were present at the meeting:

- Greg Czerniok, Oriole Street, thanked the Board and staff for the innovative work during the COVID crisis; spoke regarding concerns about Critical Race Theory and whether it is taught in our schools.
- Damon Strickland, Selma Blvd., thanked the Board for getting students back in school full-time; spoke against the current mask mandate.

There were no citizens calling in to comment.

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VI. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes of Work Session and Regular Meeting on July 12, 2021
- Minutes of Work Session on July 26, 2021
- Personnel Actions

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

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Proposed Policy Revisions

Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent, reminded that the Board had reviewed a brief packet of proposed policy revisions at the work session held on July 26. He asked that the Board approve the packet as presented.

On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Robert Boyle, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy manual revisions included in the policy packet dated July 26, 2021.

B. Surplus Property

Brad Wegner, Budget Director, reviewed the briefing in the absence of Mr. McCray. He requested the Board authorize the surplus/disposal of the listed items.

On a motion by Amy Wratchford, seconded by Natasha McCurdy, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the surplus/disposal of the listed items, as noted.

C. Acceptance of School Activity Funds Audit

Brad Wegner, Budget Director, reviewed the School Activity Funds Audit completed this summer. He noted the findings and recommendations resulting from the audit and that the financials were deemed materially correct.

On a motion by Natasha McCurdy, seconded by Ronald Ramsey, the Board voted unanimously to accept the FY2021 School Activity Funds Audit as presented.

D. Budget Amendment #2

Brad Wegner, Budget Director, reviewed the budget amendment to appropriate private donations, to transfer certain ARP ESSER III funds appropriated last month into the CIP fund into other accounts, and to transfer certain local funds from the CIP funds to the Education Fund for the T-bond program.

On a motion by Christine Poulson, seconded by Robert Boyle, the Board voted unanimously to approve (1) the appropriation of \$5,450 of private donations; (2) the transfer of \$82,785 of ARP ESSER III funds from the CIP Fund to the Education Fund for the purchase of data management licenses and CIP Undesignated account for future qualified ARP ESSER III expenditures; and (3) the transfer of \$216,000 from the CIP Fund to the Education Fund's T-Bond accounts.

Having reached the end of the agenda, the Chair declared the regular business meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.


CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD