

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2020

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 on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., 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

None.

IV. REPORTS

A. Reports from Superintendent

Dr. Smith presented certificates and award pins to School Board members in recognition of their participation in VSBA Board Development activities.

The superintendent reported on the recent restructuring of a position in the Central Office, allowing for the addition of a Director of Strategic Planning and Partnerships. He introduced Mrs. Ruth Jones Turner who has accepted this position.

Dr. Smith indicated that the current pandemic had prevented the division from holding the normal reception to honor the teachers of the year and the support staff persons of the year. He showed a video created to recognize these individuals during this unusual time.

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 and the work this committee is doing.

Robert Boyle:

- Expressed appreciation to the staff who organized the Celebration of Life event in memory of the former elementary music teacher, Charlotte Gingerelli.
- Attended several virtual PTA meetings.
- Enjoyed the trunk or treat event at Bessie Weller.
- Participated in the tour at SHS last week. Expressed excitement over the magnificent building and seeing this project come to a close.

Amy Wratchford:

- Reiterated appreciation for the beautiful event for Mrs. Gingerelli.
- Expressed appreciation for those who are continuing to work to keep students involved through the arts and athletics during this time.

Natasha McCurdy:

- No report.

Ronald Ramsey:

- Appreciated the gathering for Mrs. Gingerelli held at the Gypsy Hill Park Bandstand. Noted that many from surrounding schools were there as well to show their respect.
- Attended the recent CTE Advisory Board meeting.

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2020

- Expressed appreciation for the tour of SHS. Noted that it was great to see students in the building.
- Reminded that Storm Theater has already completed their first performance and are working on their second. Performances are available for online viewing.

Kenneth Venable:

- Appreciated in the tour of SHS and the positive coverage from our local media representatives.
- Participated in various virtual/telephone conference events.

V. UPDATES AND INFORMATION

A. Finance Update by Brad Wegner, Budget Director

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

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

The Chair opened the public input portion of the meeting. The following persons were present at the meeting to provide comments:

- Ashley Strickland, 1010 Selma Blvd., requested the Board honor the superintendent's recommendation to return to in-person instruction as soon as he deems it safe to do so.
- Damon Strickland, 1010 Selma Blvd., called upon the Board to return to 100% in-person learning on campus immediately.

The Chair noted that Mr. Lundquist, Director of Technology was serving as the host for any calls by citizens who would like to comment at this time. He reminded the speakers to identify themselves by name and address and to keep their comments to two minutes or less. Mr. Lundquist indicated that one caller was holding in the queue:

- Heather Cole called to thank the Board for the vote to remain virtual for first semester, noting that her two middle school children are doing well with virtual learning.

Hearing no further comments, the Chair closed the public input period of the meeting.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Minutes for:
 - Work Session and Regular Meeting on September 14, 2020
 - Special Called Meeting on September 21, 2020
- Personnel Actions
On a motion by Robert Boyle, seconded by Amy Wratchford, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Policy Revisions

Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent, reviewed the briefing outlining the policy revisions contained the policy packet dated September 14 and reviewed with the Board during the work session on that date.

On a motion by Natasha McCurdy, seconded by Amy Wratchford, the Board voted unanimously to approve the policy manual revisions included in the policy packet dated September 14, 2020.

B. Amendment to Cafeteria Plan for Employee Benefits

Jonathan Venn, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the exhibit and requested approval of the amendments to the SCS cafeteria plan for employee benefits.

On a motion by Christine Poulson, seconded by Amy Wratchford, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution, as presented, amending the Staunton City Schools Cafeteria Plan established under Code §125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1966.

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2020

C. Legal Services

Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent, reviewed the briefing regarding Mr. Guynn's continued representation of the Board in his private practice upon his departure as City attorney.

On a motion by Robert Boyle, seconded by Ronald Ramsey, the Board voted unanimously to authorize and direct the Division Superintendent, upon Mr. Guynn's completion of service as the City Attorney, to reach a continuing engagement of Mr. Guynn as School Board counsel in his private legal practice capacity and, as a courtesy, to inform the City Manager.

Having completed the regular meeting agenda, the Chair adjourned the regular meeting at 6:36 p.m.


CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


CHAIR OF THE BOARD