

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA  
Work Session Minutes  
February 8, 2021

The Staunton City School Board convened in the School Board Conference Room, 116 W. Beverley Street, Staunton on Monday, February 8, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., for a work session 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

**Review of Calendar Considerations**

The Clerk reviewed the schedule for upcoming events.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Smith reported that the Governor's recent announcement regarding mandatory summer school had caused concern among teachers and staff. He shared that the school division would be hosting a bigger/broader version of our regular summer school program but would not be requiring participation for either students or staff. He added that SCS would address the learning losses that has occurred during the pandemic, but would be careful not to do so in a way that would burn out our staff. He noted his desire for the school division to learn from these experiences and make school better by not losing the good lessons that have been learned.

**School Board Reports**

Board members inquired about how COVID numbers are determined and if we know "why" students are out sick in order to help control the spread of the virus. Dr. Jelisa Wolfe, Executive Director of Student Services, confirmed that schools are inquiring about symptoms when students are reported to be out sick.

Amy Wratchford reported on the recent Shenandoah Valley Governors School (SVGS) Advisory Board meeting. She shared some results of the survey conducted among the program's students.

Christine Poulson reported on the recent Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting and the representative from Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services who came to talk about their program's offerings.


Ron Ramsey reported on the recent Valley Career & Technical Center (VCTC) meeting where that board is working on its budget. Dr. Smith shared that proposed capital improvements to that facility have come up again. He added that he feels this conversation needs to be a joint effort with stakeholders from SVGS and VCTC working together as both programs are housed in that facility.

**Budget Update**

Brad Wegner provided an update on the budget development work to date. He reviewed revenue projections, expenditure requests, anticipated pay raises and payroll adjustments, anticipated new positions and stipends, etc., noting that the numbers are still very fluid as the general assembly works on the final state budget. He reminded of the upcoming budget related meetings and approval schedule.

The Chair adjourned the work session at 6:00 p.m.

  
CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
CHAIR OF THE BOARD