

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
Work Session Minutes
April 12, 2021

The Staunton City School Board convened in the School Board Conference Room, 116 W. Beverley Street, Staunton on Monday, April 12, 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.

Review of Proposed Policy Revisions

The Clerk reviewed with the Board the proposed policy revisions pursuant to the most recent packet from Virginia School Boards Association Policy Services. The proposed revisions will be presented for consideration at the May 10 business meeting.

Human Resources Update / Review of Academic Calendar for 2021-22

Jonathan Venn, Chief Human Resources Officer, reviewed the draft academic calendar for the 2021-2022 school year, noting that the calendar reflects a 5-day per week school schedule. The proposed calendar is included on the action agenda for consideration later this evening.

Mr. Venn reported on the success of the recent SCS teacher job fair held on March 20. With such a good turnout, the school division was able to hire several teachers from this event and is currently in conversation with several others. He noted that the response for the bus driver job fair was not as good as only one person had registered, which is indicative of the difficulties all school divisions are facing in the search for bus drivers.

Superintendent's Update

Dr. Smith reported as follows:

- Air Quality Upgrades
 - All SCS school buses now have HEPA filters installed.
 - All SCS school buildings will have bipolar ionization systems installed on HVAC systems. This work is ongoing at this time.
- Fall Back-to-School Plan
 - As indicated on the draft calendar, the division is planning to return to school in the fall with a 5-day per week schedule for students.
 - The division is working on plans to add outdoor learning areas.
 - School start times are being reviewed for possible changes at the middle and high school levels. A return-to-school survey will go out in next several weeks to get input on parent preferences.
- Budget Update
 - The school division's FY22 budget still has a gap of approximately \$443,750.
 - Brad Wegner provided an update on the continuing conversations with the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer regarding closing the gap.
 - City Council is scheduled to vote on the final budget on April 22.

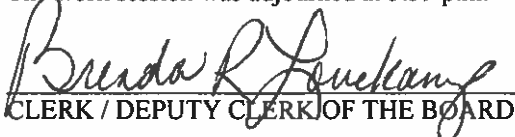
Unfinished Business / New Business

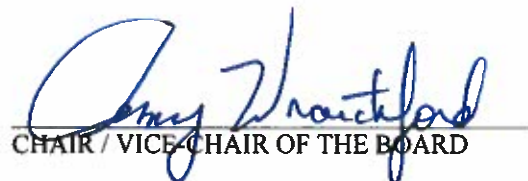
Board members asked for additional information on the latest round of Federal Cares Act funding. Brad Wegner shared that the most recent funds (ESSER III) could total approximately \$5.8 million. He noted that the stipulations for use of these funds are largely consistent with those for previous funds, with the intent being for the division to build preparedness in our operations to guard against the effects of any possible future pandemics.

At the request of Board members, Dr. Smith reviewed and clarified the tuition and special permission process slated for consideration on tonight's action agenda.

Jelisa Wolfe responded to a Board member's inquiry about any upcoming model policies regarding transgender students. It is anticipated that these drafts will be included in the May policy packet from VSBA.

The work session was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.


CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD