

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA  
Work Session Minutes  
April 26, 2021

The Staunton City School Board convened in the School Board Conference Room, 116 W. Beverley Street, Staunton on Monday, April 26, 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

**Closed Meeting**

On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Amy Wratchford, the School Board entered into a closed meeting to discuss or consider particular personnel matters, specifically regarding the assignment, evaluation, and/or contract status of one or more employees pursuant to the provisions of Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1).

Votes: Christine Poulson–aye                      Robert Boyle–aye                      Kenneth Venable–aye  
Amy Wratchford–aye                      Natasha McCurdy–aye                      Ron Ramsey–aye

On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Natasha McCurdy, the School Board voted, according to the votes recorded below, to return to open session.

Votes: Christine Poulson–aye                      Robert Boyle–aye                      Kenneth Venable–aye  
Amy Wratchford–aye                      Natasha McCurdy–aye                      Ron Ramsey–aye

On a motion by Amy Wratchford, seconded by Ronald Ramsey, the School Board voted to approve the following certificate:

**CERTIFICATION**

According to the votes recorded below, the Staunton City School Board does hereby CERTIFY to the best of each member's knowledge:

1. Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification applies; and
2. Only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by the School Board.

Votes: Christine Poulson–aye                      Robert Boyle–aye                      Kenneth Venable–aye  
Amy Wratchford–aye                      Natasha McCurdy–aye                      Ron Ramsey–aye

**On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Christine Poulson, the Board voted as recorded below to accept the recommendation for non-renewal of Employee A.**

Votes: Christine Poulson–aye                      Robert Boyle–aye                      Kenneth Venable–aye  
Amy Wratchford–aye                      Natasha McCurdy–aye                      Ron Ramsey–aye

**On a motion by Amy Wratchford, seconded by Christine Poulson, the Board voted as recorded below to approve the personnel actions as presented.**

Votes: Christine Poulson–aye                      Robert Boyle–aye                      Kenneth Venable–aye  
Amy Wratchford–aye                      Natasha McCurdy–aye                      Ron Ramsey–aye

**Calendar Considerations**

None.

**Review of Next Month's Draft Agenda**

Dr. Smith reviewed the draft agenda for the May 10 regular monthly business meeting.

Dr. Smith shared that the 4:00 p.m. board development session, originally scheduled for May 10 to continue the work on the strategic plan, would be postponed until the second monthly work session on May 24.

The clerk noted that a new toll-free call in number secured by SCS will be included on the May agenda. The previous one was issued by the City and is no longer available as City Council voted to discontinue the call-in option for public input.

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA  
Work Session Minutes  
April 26, 2021

**Superintendent's Update**

Dr. Smith shared the following report:

- City Council approved the budget at the meeting last Thursday.
- Legal counsel met with the Superintendent, Chair and Vice-Chair last week to discuss several matters.
- The school division presented a proposal and request to Staunton Economic Development Authority (EDA) to acquire property for a consolidated operations facility. The EDA tabled consideration of the proposal until the May meeting and will undertake a cost/benefit analysis before that meeting.
- Sandra McGrath was selected as the next principal at Bessie Weller Elementary School. The opening for the assistant principal position has been posted.
- They survey on school start and end times for next year is out and responses are still coming in.
- Arbor Day Celebration is scheduled at Dixon on Friday, April 30 at 10:30 a.m. This is a partnership event with Shenandoah Green. Various School Board members expressed an interest in attending.
- Senator Kaine is planning to visit and tour SHS next Wednesday, May 5. More information about this will be forthcoming as details are settled. Various School Board members expressed an interested in participating.
- Sheriff Robertson visited and requested assistance from elementary students to name the department's new puppy. The Sheriff is to get more information to the Superintendent on this request.

**School Board Communications Reports**

School Board members shared the following reports:

- Several staff members have expressed appreciation for the new music teacher at McSwain.
- Many parents have shared their appreciation for the decision not to make a schedule change in order to offer 4-days of in-person instruction at this late time in the school year.
- Citizens have shared their thoughts in support of the proposal for the consolidated operations facility.

Board members asked for clarification on how next year's virtual learning option would work. Dr. Smith shared additional information about Virtual Virginia and reminded that this would be available only for students who are approved for this option.


**Unfinished Business**

Board members discussed possible options to show appreciation to all staff members for their work during this difficult year. Stephanie Haskins shared more information about the "Mondays in May" program, where special surprises will be shared each week as a way to thank all SCS employees.

Dr. Smith shared that two SCS staff members were named as winners of the Dawbarn Award this year, however the Community Foundation has indicated they would not be hosting the award ceremony.

The Chair adjourned the work session at 5:53 p.m.

  
CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD