

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
Work Session Minutes
June 14, 2021

The Staunton City School Board convened in the School Board Conference Room, 116 W. Beverley Street, Staunton on Monday, June 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., for a work session with members in attendance as follows:

	Kenneth Venable, Chair		Amy Wratchford, Vice-chair
Robert Boyle	Natasha McCurdy	Christine Poulson	Ronald Ramsey
	Dr. Garrett Smith, Superintendent/Deputy Clerk		
	Brenda Lovekamp, Clerk		

Closed Meeting

On a motion by Amy Wratchford, seconded by Ron Ramsey, the School Board entered into a closed meeting to discuss or consider particular personnel matters, specifically the annual evaluation of the division superintendent, 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	Ronald Ramsey–aye	

On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Amy Wratchford, 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	Ronald Ramsey–aye	

On a motion by Ronald Ramsey, seconded by Natasha McCurdy, 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	Ronald Ramsey–aye	

Calendar Considerations

The Clerk reviewed the upcoming conference opportunities.

Review of Proposed Policy Revisions

Dr. Jelisa Wolfe reviewed the packet of proposed policy revisions from the Policy Services division of VSBA, highlighting those areas of significant change or interest. She noted that the school division and VSBA Policy Services have been working for some time to ensure compliance with recent code changes regarding transgender students in public schools (specifically Virginia Code § 22.1-23.3 approved by the 2020 General Assembly). The packet of proposed policy revisions will be included on the July agenda for School Board consideration.

Review of Updates for 2021-22 Student Handbook

Dr. Jelisa Wolfe reviewed the summary of anticipated changes to the student handbook, noting that the annual updates are generally driven by any policy revisions since the last handbook publication and any fee updates for the upcoming year. This year’s updates will also reflect: VDOE’s revised code of conduct guidelines, the new school start and dismissal times, the removal of any gender-specific pronouns, the removal of references to the COVID-19 changes specific to the 2020-21 school year, and the notice of the School Board’s additional monthly work session. A draft of the handbook will be brought to the School Board for consideration at the July meeting.

Unfinished Business

Amy Wratchford reminded of the need to discuss officers for the next school year. Board members engaged in a brief discussion regarding individual interest and willingness to serve in this capacity for 2021-22.

Dr. Smith reminded of the upcoming joint meeting between City Council, the Economic Development Authority and the School Board on Thursday, June 17, 5:30 p.m. in the Irene Givens Building at Montgomery Hall Park to discuss use of property at Staunton Crossing.

STAUNTON CITY SCHOOL BOARD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
Work Session Minutes
June 14, 2021

At 6:01 p.m., the chair adjourned the work session in order to move on to the regular business meeting in the Rita S. Wilson Council Chambers on the first floor of City Hall. The School Board expressed the intention to return to the Conference Room to complete the work session agenda at the conclusion of the regular business meeting.

At 7:22 p.m., the School Board returned to the School Board Conference Room to continue the work session agenda.

School Board Committee/Advisory Board Reports

Ronald Ramsey reported on the consolidation of VCTC and SVGS under one director, Dr. Lee Ann Whitesell. Dr. Smith noted that with this restructuring, the school division plans to revisit the operating agreement that has been in place since 1969.


Natasha McCurdy made suggestions regarding selection of students to ensure all student groups are represented in the Upstander Training with VCIC this fall.

Board members discussed citizen suggestions regarding streaming the meetings.

Amy Wratchford reported on the high marks the SVGS program received in their recent VDOE audit.

Having completed the agenda, the work session was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.


CLERK / DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD


CHAIR / VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD