

Augusta County School Board
May 7, 2020 – Minutes

The Augusta County School Board met Thursday, May 7, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta County Government Center in Verona, Virginia, for their regular monthly meeting. The following members were present:

Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Chair
Mr. Tom Goforth
Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr.
Mr. David R. Shiflett
Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel
Mr. John M. Ward, Vice Chair
Ms. Donna H. Wells

There following members were absent: None

Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Chair, called the regular School Board meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Division Superintendent, Dr. Eric W. Bond.

Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Chair, asked the Board to review and approve the consent agenda.

- **On a motion by Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, seconded by Mr. David R. Shiflett, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda items as follows:**
 - a. Minutes – April 2, 2020
 - b. Claims
 - c. Special Permissions and Religious Exemptions
 - d. Head Start Directors' Report

Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Chair, asked if there were any Delegations who wished to address the Board. There were none

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, presented the following correspondence to the School Board:

- Thanked Dr. and Mrs. John L. Ocheltree, Jr., for the beautiful hand-painted cheesebox, signed by each principal, in honor of the 150th anniversary of Augusta County Public Schools.
- Notification from Dr. James F. Lane, Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction, announcing a \$37,500 grant awarded to Valley Career and Technical Center and fifteen other schools across the state.
- Notice that the Practical Nursing Program at Valley Career and Technical Center is ranked third out of forty-three similar programs in 2020.
- R. Steven Landes, Clerk of the Augusta County Circuit Court, acknowledged the recognition of Augusta County Public Schools by the Virginia School Boards Association.
- Email from a teacher who shared her appreciation for how Augusta County Public Schools has made teachers feel important and valued during the COVID-19 school closure.

Ms. Tina Kiracofe, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Technology, asked for permission to file Title Grants available through the Virginia Department of Education. They included:

- Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies;
- Title I, Part C: Education of Migratory Children;
- Title II, Part A: Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High-Quality Teachers and Principals;

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- Title III, Part A: Language Instruction for Limited English Proficient and Immigrant Students; and
 - Title IV, Part A: Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants
- **On a motion by Ms. Donna H. Wells, seconded by Mr. Timothy Z. Swartzel, the Board voted 7-0 to approve filing for the above mentioned Title Grants.**

Ms. Tina Kiracofe, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Technology, announced that Mr. Michael Tetto, Curriculum Supervisor for Career and Technical Education, asked to submit the application for the Virginia School Boards Association's Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award.

- **On a motion by Mr. David R. Shiflett, seconded by Mr. Tom Goforth, the Board voted 7-0 to approve submitting the Virginia School Boards Association's Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award.**

Mrs. Tina Kiracofe, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology, submitted the final draft of the Augusta County Public Schools' Profile of a Learner logo.

- **On a motion by Ms. Donna H. Wells, seconded by Mr. Tom Goforth, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the logo for the Augusta County Public Schools' Profile of a Learner logo.**

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, shared the revised Virginia Department of Education's State Funding Template based on the Governor's and General Assembly's April 2020 revised budget.

- Detailed specific lines that were affected by budget cuts including a two percent pay raise.
- **On a motion by Mr. David R. Shiflett, with regrets, seconded by Mr. Timothy R. Swartzel, the Board voted 7-0 to remove a two percent pay raise for employees as a result of the Governor's resending of lower funding figures. It shall be used to offset sales tax revenue reductions instead of the planned pay raise.**
- Three scenarios for the Board to consider for potential reductions in state funding: ten percent, twenty percent and twenty-five percent respectively. Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, considered possible sources to offset these reductions.
 - Discussion by the Board regarding expectations of the Board of Supervisors regarding sales tax scenarios, etc.

Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Chair, expressed appreciation for the planning already done by Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, and Mr. Mark Lotts, Executive Director of Business and Finance.

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, expressed appreciation for the Augusta County Board of Supervisors' decision not to reduce funding to Augusta County Public Schools at this time.

The following staff reports were given:

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent:

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- a. Recommended a second meeting in June (June 25) in place of a July meeting. After discussion, the Board decided to wait until the June 4th meeting to decide whether they will meet on June 25 or July 2.
- b. Asked for action on the Resolution for Suspension of School Board Policies which was vetted by the school division's attorney and provides flexibility in consideration of COVID-19 crisis-related circumstances.
- **On a motion by Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, seconded by Mr. Tom Goforth, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the Resolution for Suspension of School Board Policies which provides flexibility in consideration of COVID-19 crisis-related circumstances.**
 - c. Asked for action on the Resolution for Beverley Manor Elementary School to be named as surplus property.
- **On a motion by Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, seconded by Ms. Donna H. Wells, the Board voted 7-0 to declare the Beverley Manor Elementary School property as surplus property and convey title to the Property of the County of Virginia.**

Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent:

- a. Personnel Action List
- **On a motion by Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, seconded by Mr. Tom Goforth, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the Personnel Action List as presented.**
 - b. Presented information and recommendation on behalf of Dr. Eric W. Bond, Division Superintendent, for Ms. Sandra L. Thorpe as Executive Director of Student Services beginning July 1, 2020, and for Ms. Sarah King as Assistant Principal at Riverheads Elementary School.
- **On a motion by Ms. Donna H. Wells, seconded by Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the appointment of Ms. Sandra L. Thorpe as Executive Director of Student Services beginning July 1, 2020.**
- **On a motion by Mr. John M. Ward, seconded by Ms. Donna H. Wells, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the appointment of Ms. Sarah King as Assistant Principal for Riverheads Elementary School.**
 - c. Policy Amendments to Regulation 5.350 and 5.360.
- **On a motion by Dr. John L. Ocheltree, Jr., seconded by Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, the Board voted 7-0 to approve the policy changes to Regulations 5.350 and 5.360.**

Dr. Douglas W. Shifflett, Jr., Deputy Superintendent:

- a. Notebook of new and revised Policies and Regulations for the 2020-2021 school year was presented. Board Members were asked to review the notebook and grant approval at the next Board meeting unless there are questions or revisions.

Ms. Tina Kiracofe, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and Technology:

- a. Acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week and shared a message of appreciation

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At this time, Board Members shared their activities for the past month.

- **On a motion by Mr. Timothy Z. Swortzel, seconded by Mr. David R. Shiflett, the Board voted 7-0 to adjourn to meet on June 4, 2020, at the Augusta County Government Center in Verona, Virginia, at 7:00 p.m. for its regular meeting or subject to the call of the Chair.**



Mr. Nicholas T. Collins, Board Chair



Ms Miranda Ball, Deputy Clerk of the Board

ATTACHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK