BRISTOL VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
June 02, 2025

The Bristol Virginia School Board met in Regular Session on Monday, June 02, 2025, in the Bristol Virginia Public Schools Administration Office, 280 Lee Street, Bristol, Virginia. A quorum was present with the following Board members in attendance:

Mrs. Vanessa Guffey, Chair
Mr. Randy Alvis
Mr. Josh Slagle
Mr. Steve Fletcher, Vice Chair
Mr. Bill Hartley

Also present were:
Dr. David Scott, Superintendent
Mrs. Tammy Jones, Clerk
Mr. Gary Ritchie, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Stephanie Austin, Deputy Clerk

Mrs. Vanessa Guffey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. She welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Guffey asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Mr. Randy Alvis so moved. Mr. Josh Slagle seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 2 (A) Recognition of Virginia Middle School Students. Dr. Scott and Board Members recognized students who attended the NASA and KidWind events along with Ms. Eileen Allison and Ms. Jennifer Austin.

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 2 (B) Superintendent's Report. Dr. David Scott, Superintendent, presented the following: Our Maintenance Department is in the process of completing the new training room downstairs in what had been the art gallery. We use this space to interview candidates for teaching jobs and have other stakeholder meetings there – often this room is part of the first impression for visitors and potential employees. We have enclosed the training space and will continue to feature student artwork on the walls in the corridor, which will still be visible through the storefront windows.

The Maintenance Department also got a jump on two major projects today: Virginia Primary School renovations, which will finish out a three-year project to create individual classrooms in the pods at the Primary School; and we also began work on a door lock hardware changeover at Virginia Middle School. The hardware change is safety precaution and will enable our teachers to lock their doors from the inside without relying on fine motor skills in the event of safety incident. This requires no new keys, so we are very pleased with what the contractor is able to provide for this project. This is being done with funding from VDOE's state security grant.

We are just one week out from the start of summer school. The schools are finalizing lists and making arrangements with Transportation this week. We are hopeful that our new format in the elementary grades proves beneficial for students. Instead of doing a lot of whole group instruction and trying to create a well-rounded day for summer school students as we have in the past, we are focusing on more smaller instructional groups, a more favorable student-to-teacher ratio, and more targeted remediation specifically in math and reading for our students. The state does not prescribe how to do summer school, so we are hoping that this slightly new approach serves the students well.

With the new state accreditation models, it is difficult to say with any certainty exactly where everything will shake out in terms of chronic absenteeism, but we do have some really encouraging news to share. Two years ago, we had 821 students whose non-attendance categorized them as chronically absent, meaning they had missed more than 10% of the school days in that year. We have now reduced that by more than 220 students. We still have a way to go, but our efforts have made a difference for 220 students.

Mrs. Guffey and Board Members thanked Dr. Scott for his report.

No one addressed the Board during Public Comment.

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 4 (A) Approval of Consent Agenda. Mr. Slagle moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

A. Approval of Payment of Bills
B. Approval of Minutes – Regular Session – May 05, 2025
C. Approval of VSBA Policy Updates

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 5 (A) Approval of Renewal of School Nutrition Certificate of Deposit. Mr. Bill Hartley moved approval. Mr. Steve Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 5 (B) Approval of Establishing an Athletic School Activity Fund Bank Account. Mr. Slagle moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 5 (C) Approval of Certificate of Deposit Withdrawal. Mr. Fletcher moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 5 (D) Approval of VSBA Policies - FCM- Student Cell Phone and Smart Device Possession and Use EBBC -Opioid Antagonists IGBJ - Advanced or Accelerated Mathematics JJAG - Student Athlete Extreme Heat Safety and Protection KGD - Notification of School-Connected Student Overdose. Mr. Slagle moved approval. Mr. Alvis seconded the motion. A vote was taken to reflect a 4-1 vote – Mr. Alvis, yes – Mr. Fletcher, no – Mr. Hartley, yes – Mr. Slagle, yes – and Mrs. Guffey, yes.

Mrs. Guffey addressed Item 5 (E) Approval of Granting Superintendent Permission to Hire New Employees Between June 3, 2025, and July 6, 2025, in Consultation with the School Board. Mr. Fletcher moved approval. Mr. Slagle seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. Slagle moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters as authorized by Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) the Code of Virginia, Specifically,

A. Discussion of Certain Personnel, Recommendation for Employment, and Resignations.

Mr. Alvis seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board went into Closed Session at 6:50 p.m.

Back in Public Session at 8:05 p.m., Mr. Fletcher moved Certification of Closed Meeting as such: the Bristol Virginia School Board certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed

meeting and only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were considered. Mr. Slagle seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hartley moved Approval of Attachment (A) as recommended. Mr. Slagle seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hartley moved Approval of July 3, 2025, being a paid holiday for staff. Mr. Slagle seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Alvis moved Approval of Superintendent's New Contract. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Guffey adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:05 p.m.

Stephanie R. Austin, Deputy Clerk

Vanessa Guffey, Chair